

will be recognized during the 38th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Saturday, January 14, 2017, at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana. The Gary Frontiers Service Club, which was founded in 1952, sponsors this annual breakfast.

The Gary Frontiers Service Club will pay tribute to local individuals who have for decades selflessly contributed to improving the quality of life for the people of Gary. This year, Denise C. Dillard and Deacon James Holloway will be honored with the prestigious Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award. Additionally, several individuals will be recognized as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Marchers at this year's breakfast including Vanessa Allen Ed.D., Natalie Ammons, WD Brewer, Patricia Owens-Lee, Reverend R. Jerry Prothro, and Kerry Rice Sr. In addition, Dorothy R. Leavell, editor and publisher of *The Gary Crusader*, will be the recipient of the 2017 Gary Frontiers Gratitude Award.

Though very different in nature, the achievements of each of these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed, as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and faced them with unwavering strength and determination. Each one of the honored guests' greatness has been found in their willingness to serve with "a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." They set goals and work selflessly to make them a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these honorees, as well as the Gary Frontiers Service Club officers, President Oliver J. Gilliam, Vice President James Piggee, Recording Secretary Linnal Ford, Financial Secretary Melvin Ward, and Treasurer/Seventh District Director Floyd Donaldson, along with Clorius L. Lay, who has served as Breakfast Chairman for sixteen years, and all other members of the service club for their initiative, determination, and dedication to serving the people of Northwest Indiana.

#### INTRODUCING THE IRAQ AND SYRIA GENOCIDE EMERGENCY RELIEF AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2017

##### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 10, 2017*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to announce that my friend ANNA ESHOO and I today introduced the Iraq and Syria Genocide Emergency Relief and Accountability Act of 2017 (H.R. 390).

H.R. 390 would require the State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development to identify the urgent humanitarian needs of Christians and other genocide survivors from religious minority communities and to start supporting some of the entities effectively aiding them on-the-ground.

This bill is urgently needed because Christian survivors of the ISIS genocide are facing an emergency. Just before Christmas, I went to Erbil in the Kurdistan region of Iraq to meet with these survivors. They told me the United States had abandoned them. I saw first-hand how the Obama administration has failed to help them.

I was in Erbil at the personal invitation of the Chaldean Catholic Archbishop of Erbil, Bashar Warda. More than 70,000 Christians—10,500 families—who escaped from ISIS have relied on the Archdiocese of Erbil for food, shelter, and medical care to survive. Yet the Obama administration and United Nations have refused to give a single dollar to the Archdiocese to help them. They have been kept alive only because of the generosity of organizations like the Knights of Columbus and Aid to the Church in Need. However, the needs are so great that the Archdiocese is chronically in crisis mode, unsure whether it will soon run out of resources to sustain these Christians.

The winter temperatures are freezing and the risk of related illness is high. Iraq's Christian population is less than 250,000, down from up to 1.4 million in 2002, down from 500,000 in 2013 just before ISIS began targeting Christians for genocide.

Having fled ISIS, these Christians may have to flee their homelands. Perhaps they will take the little money they have left, and pay smugglers to get them to Europe. They would risk becoming prisoners of human traffickers or perishing in the Mediterranean Sea, where more than 5,000 refugees and migrants died or went missing in 2016.

For a few of these genocide survivors unable to return home, the only long-term option may be resettlement in a country like the United States as a refugee. Our legislation would create a Priority Two designation that they are of "special humanitarian concern" to the United States. The P-2 designation would ensure that they are able to get an overseas interview with the U.S. government to be considered for the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program without needing a referral from the United Nations, an NGO, or another U.S. government entity. This would not guarantee acceptance and admission and they would have to clear the same security screening as every other Iraqi and Syrian refugee before being admitted. But at least they will be considered.

The other key element of our bill focuses on accountability. It would require the U.S. government to identify and support some entities that are conducting criminal investigations, and collecting evidence, on perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes in Iraq and Syria. This evidence is usable in future criminal trials. Until now, the State Department has been considering these crimes merely as human rights violations, rather than as crimes.

Archbishop Warda has put it clearly. "These coming months may well decide the fate of Christianity in Iraq: whether it survives and is given a chance for rebirth; or whether it perishes, existing only as a few scattered museum pieces with caretaker clergy, of interest to tourists and academics perhaps, but without the Christian people who had lived there for two-thousand years."

As the Syriac Archbishop of Mosul, who had to seek refuge in Erbil from ISIS together with his people, told me during my mission, "We pray that President Trump will help us. We are the last people to speak the Aramaic language. Without help, we are finished."

Archbishop Nicodemus had reason to be hopeful. On September 9, 2016, at the Voter Values Summit, then-candidate Trump said, "ISIS is hunting down and exterminating what it calls the Nation of the Cross. ISIS is car-

rying out a genocide against Christians in the Middle East. We cannot let this evil continue."

If our legislation moves quickly onto the floor for a vote and to President Trump for his signature, I am confident that he will sign it and ensure that it is fully implemented. The Christians of the Middle East are counting on us.

Many groups support H.R. 390, including the Knights of Columbus, Family Research Council, In Defense of Christians, 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative, Commission for International Justice and Accountability, HIAS, Aid the Church in Need USA, Open Doors, A Demand for Action, Yezidi Human Rights Organization International, Religious Freedom Institute, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, and Syrian Accountability Project, and Civitas Maxima.

It is also supported by all the former U.S. Ambassadors-at Large for War Crimes, David Scheffer (1997 through 2001), Pierre Prosper (2001 through 2005), Clint Williamson (2006 through 2009), and Stephen Rapp (2009 through 2015), as well as the Founding Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, David Crane, the Director of the Center for Religious Freedom Nina Shea, and the author of *Defying ISIS*, Rev. Johnnie Moore.

Fifteen of our colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, are original cosponsors of H.R. 390. I call on my other colleagues to cosponsor this bill and help ensure that it gets to the new President as soon as possible so that Christian genocide survivors in Iraq and elsewhere get the help they so desperately need.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 10, 2017*

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I missed roll call vote numbers 24 through 25 on the floor of the House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted yea to both bills.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 10, 2017*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, during the votes held on January 10, 2017, I was inescapably detained and away handling important matters related to my District and the State of Alabama. If I had been present, I would have voted YES on the Velázquez Amendment, YES on the Clay/Waters Amendment, and YES on Final Passage of H.R. 79.

#### TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF ROBERT ROSENBAUER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

##### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 10, 2017*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert "Bob" Rosenbauer, a